

# Street Audit!

*Hosted by William Smith*

## Project Goal

To develop a system for people to assess pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure by using a PDA or smartphone.

## Timeline for Planning

**Three Months Before:** Find a neighborhood location that you want to audit.

**One Month Before:** Find volunteers and arrange a time and place for the training and assessment.

## How Many Volunteers?

Between 10 and 20 works great. Work in pairs to survey sidewalks and intersections.

## Time Commitment

40 hours of planning and about 10 hours on the day of project. The process of compiling the data was almost instantaneous. The project started at 9 am, then training took place until lunchtime. When everyone in the group went to lunch, they did surveys on way there and back.

## Expenses

About \$300 for food, coffee, and supplies (paper!). A lot of water was bought, so much spent on water.

## Publicity

Through the East Silver Spring Citizens Association listserv (ESSCA).

## Challenges

It took a while to get volunteers. The organizer had to work at it for a couple of months by sending several email messages and talking to people by phone. The organizer also had to enlist the help of friends.

## Results

The project resulted in 4 surveys, including surveys of sections of roads between intersections, and of the intersections themselves, both for pedestrians and bicyclists. The project is still in the prototype phase, but would eventually provide a pedestrian map.

## Tips/Key Steps:

- Find a date far in advance and work towards preparing for that day.
- Tap into your friends and acquaintances to find space.



The project took place at Nora School in Silver Spring, which was right in downtown Silver Spring. The key streets that they wanted to survey were Colesville Road, Georgia Avenue, Fenton Street, and East-West Highway.

*The project consisted of:*

1) Training on how to use the PDA and surveys, then 2) Going out with PDAs and get information, and 3) Going through the compilation process in which you can generate an initial result map so that the whole group can find out what each person did. Finding the space, finding volunteers, arranging the time for the training and assessment, finding a location, went through community



To learn more, read William Smith's blog at [www.montgomerysideways.blogspot.com](http://www.montgomerysideways.blogspot.com).